

HEALTH
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RURAL DISTRICT OF FOREHOE AND HENSTEAD

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Irene B.M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(G.A.J. Browne, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.)

AND THE

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

(W.A. Jones, M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.)

FOR

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S T A F F

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Irene B.M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods,
Shops Inspector and Inspector under the
Petroleum Acts

Geoffrey A.J. Browne, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS :

B.G.B. South, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

G.J.L. Horne, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

T.A. Dawkins, M.A.P.H.I.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR :

William A. Jones, M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.



T H E A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Irene B.M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF FOREHOE & HENSTEAD,

NORFOLK

For the year ended 31st December, 1957

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1957.

The estimated mid-year population was 24,630 compared with 24,900 in 1956, a decrease of 270. This is the first year since 1953 that there has been a decrease of population. There was an excess of 67 deaths over births, leaving a real decrease of 203 which may be partly accounted for by the slowing-down of the building programme of both Council and private firms.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	69,939
Resident mid-year population, 1957 (as estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	24,630
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	8,243
Rateable value (end of 1957)	...	...	...	...	...	£159,030
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£600

W E A T H E R C O N D I T I O N S

The weather of 1957 was remarkable for its unseasonable behaviour being warm and dry when we usually expect the opposite and cool and wet when we hope for better things.

Following the mild December of 1956, January, February, March and April continued to be very warm with few frosts but with more than average rain in February and March. In May, the weather took a turn for the worse and gave severe late frosts with lack of sun but with rainfall below average for the month. The real crown of the year was the month of June which was very hot with long hours of sunshine though there were occasional thunderstorms with hail. It was particularly hot for the week of the Royal Show. Thereafter the summer ceased and all three holiday months were cold and very wet, right on to the end of September. Autumn relented and produced dry, warm days though with less than normal sunshine and December closed the year with sharp frosts but with rain and sun above the average.

To sum up the year, late winter and early spring were pleasant, June was glorious, summer was a cold "wash-out", while autumn returned to the geniality of spring. Holidaymakers and farmers alike found the year particularly unpleasant.

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 live births		
				Forehoe & Henstead	England & Wales	Forehoe & Henstead
Legitimate	376	220	156	(1957)	(1957)	(1956)
Illegitimate	14	5	9	15.84	16.1	16.06
Total	390	225	165	(16.95)		(17.35)

STILL BIRTHS

				Rate per 1,000 live & still births		
	Total	Male	Female	Forehoe & Henstead (1957)	England & Wales (1957)	Forehoe & Henstead (1956)
Legitimate	8	5	3			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Total	8	5	3	20.1	22.4	15.0

DEATHS

	467	243	224	Crude death-rate per 1,000 population		
				18.96	11.5	20.4
Maternal Mortality	-	-	-	(7.6)		(10.6)

Infant Mortality

				Rate per 1,000 live births		
Legitimate	6	3	3			
Illegitimate	1	1	-	25.64	23.0	17.5
Total	7	4	3			

There were 390 live births registered during the year and 467 deaths from all causes. The crude death rate was 18.96 compared with 20.4 in 1956, and the birth rate was 15.84 compared with 16.06 for 1956.

After adjustment for age and sex of the population, the death rate was 7.6 compared with 11.5 for England and Wales and the birth rate 17.35 compared with 16.1 for the country as a whole.

The illegitimacy rate per 1,000 live births was 35.9 compared with 46 for the whole country.

These figures show in an even more marked manner than last year that the district is a healthy one, the birth rate being above and the death rate much below the average for the country.

SURVIVAL OF INFANTS :

Total number of live births	:	390
Total number of still births	:	8
Number of infant deaths	:	10
Infant Mortality rate	:	25.64

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of death</u>
Male	10 minutes	Hydrops Foetalis
Male	15 minutes	Prematurity
Female	6 hours	Rhesus incompatibility
Male	1st day	Prematurity
Male	1st day	Prematurity
Female	3 days	Prematurity
Female	1 week	Meningomyelocele
Male	1 month	Fibrocystic disease of the pancreas
Male	3 months	Broncho-pneumonia and congenital heart disease
Male	3 months	(Broncho-pneumonia and congenital heart disease (in a mongol
		Prematurity : 4 cases
		Other congenital abnormalities : 5 cases
		Maternal causes : <u>1</u> case

10

As will be seen from the tables, only 10 infants died in their first year of life, all but 3 in their first week and, of the ^{remaining} / 7, only 2 survived their first day. Although the infant mortality rate is a little higher, 25.64 compared with 17.5 last year, all the infants had conditions which are frequently incompatible with life although 2 of them died from acute respiratory complications which are often the terminal illness in these cases.

The rhesus incompatibility case might have been preventable if earlier ante natal care had been given. This was a fifth child and the history showed clearly that both the third and fourth children had been affected to a less severe degree. An immediate blood transfusion at birth failed to enable the infant to survive longer than 6 hours. Apart from this one, none of these infant deaths could, therefore, be classed as wholly preventable.

PREMATURE BIRTHS.

Total number of premature births : 10
Number of deaths due to prematurity : 3

Again this year, the high standard of infant care has been maintained by the mothers of the district, aided by skilled medical and nursing services.

DEATHS UNDER 40 (Excluding infants under one year)

There were 8 deaths under the age of 40 from the following causes:-

Accidental

Road : 2 (males aged 22 & 28)
Drowning : 1 (female aged 3)
Killed by cow : 1 (female aged 38)

Mental defective : 1 (male aged 3)

Malignant disease : 1 (male aged 11)
Chronic Muscle disease : 1 (male aged 18)
Acute Kidney disease : 1 (male aged 22)

The three children in this group were a mental defective, a girl of 3 who was drowned in a well and a boy of 11 with malignant disease. The 5 adult deaths were due to accident in 3 cases, to kidney disease in one and to chronic muscle disease in the fifth case. In 1956, there were 7 deaths in this age group.

OTHER CAUSES AND AGE GROUPS

<u>Age</u> <u>Groups</u>	<u>Infants</u> <u>under 1</u>	<u>Pre-</u> <u>School</u>	<u>School</u> <u>Age</u>	<u>Working life</u>			<u>Pensionable Age</u>			<u>Over</u> <u>95</u>
				<u>15-40</u>	<u>41-50</u>	<u>51-65</u>	<u>66-75</u>	<u>76-85</u>	<u>86-95</u>	
Totals	10	2	1	5	15	69	116	172	67	2

It will be noted that 88% of all deaths occurred over the age of 65, 52% over 75 and 14% over 85. Two deaths were at the age of 97. 42% of all deaths occurred in hospitals for the chronic sick in the district.

A total of 89 deaths was registered during working life, 69 of these between the ages of 51 and 65.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	17	2	19
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	13	13
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	31	21	52
Leukaemia and aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	4	4	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	25	47
Coronary disease, angina	26	15	41
Hypertension with heart disease	6	6	12
Other heart diseases	52	63	115
Other circulatory disease	18	27	45
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	17	9	26
Bronchitis	9	1	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-	5
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	17	35
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	3	10	13
Suicide	1	-	1
Homicide and operations of war	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTALS	: <u>243</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>467</u>

There was only 1 death from pulmonary tuberculosis, a male aged 57, compared with 3 deaths last year.

CANCER OF THE LUNG

male

There were 17/deaths from cancer of the lung and 12 of these were under the age of 65, compared with a total of 10 in 1956.

<u>CANCER DEATHS</u>	<u>A G E S</u>				<u>TOTAL</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	50 - 55	56 - 60	61 - 65	Over 65	1957 (1956)
Lung	5	4	3	5	17	(10)
All other sites	2	7	4	22	35	(35)

These local figures show the same great increase in cancer of the lung that is shown by the national figures and those of many countries of Western Europe. It is specially notable that 12 men have had their working life curtailed, some by many years, by a disease which is known to have a strong association with long years of heavy smoking. It would seem to any unbiassed observer to be a heavy price to pay for a totally useless habit.

What of the risk to non-smokers, whose occupation or daily activities subject them to the ill-effects of other people's smoking habits? Are they not entitled to protection? What of the staff of cinema or public house where the atmosphere is often quite thick for many hours at a time? It is surely time that smoking was again "permissive" as it used to be in our grandmother's day and not a habit which is indulged in as a right, infringing as it does other people's "breathing space" - The liberty of the subject surely works both ways and it is a fundamental freedom to have clean air to breathe.

GENERAL

The commonest causes of death were cancer and malignant disease, (94) and heart and circulatory disease (coronary disease 41). The figures for 1956 being cancer, etc., 86 and coronary disease 36.

I N F E C T I O U S D I S E A S E

<u>Disease</u>	0-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	N/K	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	2	8	3	1	1	-	-	-	15
Whooping Cough	19	14	46	8	2	1	-	-	1	91
Measles	30	35	80	28	4	1	-	-	11	189
Poliomyelitis	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
Pneumonia	-	3	2	2	-	2	5	2	1	17
Dysentery	1	2	5	-	-	3	-	-	-	11
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	6	-	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	1	2	3	1	3	1	12
Meningitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>TOTALS :</u>	51	58	143	42	10	15	6	11	15	351

There were 351 cases of infectious disease notified during the year compared with 331 in 1956. The main differences were more whooping cough, less measles and scarlet fever, and much less dysentery. Apart from measles and whooping cough, the incidence of the infectious disease was lower than last year, being 72 compared with 98.

POLIOMYELITIS

In 1957, there were 3 confirmed cases of poliomyelitis, 2 children and an adult woman. The children were aged 3 and 5 years respectively and the adult case was the mother of a family. All 3 cases occurred in the parish of Costessey, the first case in February and the other two in August. All were treated in hospital.

The first case was a little girl of 3 years who had a mild non-paralytic attack from which she made a complete recovery.

The second case was an expectant mother who had no known contact with the disease but was a part-time worker in a busy Norwich store and had ample opportunity for a wide variety of contacts. She made a good recovery, her baby was born in January and both are doing well.

The third case was a boy of 5 who took ill within 10 days of the second case, but appeared to have no direct contact with it. He had a facial paralysis but only a slight illness. He made a good recovery and is now normal.

SCARLET FEVER

Scarlet fever was less prevalent this year, only 15 cases being notified compared with 25 in 1956. The majority were of school age but there were 2 adult cases. No complications were reported and there were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were many more cases of whooping cough, 91 compared with 8 last year. 33 cases were pre-school children, 19 of these being under the age of 2, while the majority (54) occurred during school life.

The disease was fairly prevalent in January and February and reached a peak in the middle of March. A further peak occurred in late May and for the rest of the year incidence was low.

The parishes chiefly affected were Hethersett, Hingham and Saxlingham. No complications were reported and there were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH (Cont'd.)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Jly.</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Costessey	2		2									1	5
Hethel		3			2	1							6
Hethersett					11								11
Hingham		5	4		1			1	2				13
Kirby Bedon			5										5
Newton Flotman		1	5	1		1							8
Saxlingham	4	5	4										13
Other parishes	3	2	9	4	8	3				1			30
	9	16	29	5	22	5	-	1	2	1	-	1	91

The figures for the last 9 years are as follows :-

<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>
91	8	25	134	60	42	102	136	4

MEASLES

Altogether 189 cases of measles were notified during the year, 65 being of pre-school age, 5 adults and the rest occurring during school life.

There were no cases until February and from then on until the beginning of August there was a moderate incidence. A peak of cases occurred in August, this subsided within the month and incidence remained low until late October when more cases occurred and a moderate prevalence was noted during the rest of the year. The parishes chiefly affected were Costessey and Stoke Holy Cross.

No complications were reported and there were no deaths.

MEASLES(Cont'd)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Jly.</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Barford						10		2					12
Costessey			1		3	1	11	8				1	25
Cringleford			1	3	2		1	1	2	1			11
Gt.Melton						6		2					8
Hethersett				1				4			1	2	8
Lt.Melton								13					13
Morley								8					8
Stoke Holy Cross					1					1	15	11	28
Swardeston						2	4						6
Other parishes	1	2	6	7	5	7	11	13	1	5	9	4	71

1	2	8	11	11	26	27	51	3	7	25	18	190
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SONNE DYSENTERY

There were 11 cases of dysentery notified compared with 27 in 1956. No large outbreak occurred and the last 6 months of the year were entirely free from cases.

FOOD POISONING

There was a total of 8 cases of food poisoning notified during the year compared with 9 in 1956. During investigation of these cases a further 7 positive carriers were found amongst contacts. All were due to salmonella typhimurium.

Only one incident occurred in the district, apart from cases associated with the Royal Show and the subsequent outbreak at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. This incident consisted of 4 cases and a further 4 contact carriers in the same family at Morley. After prolonged treatment all the cases were satisfactorily cleared up without any other families being involved. The food causing the outbreak was never identified but must have been some substance unique to this household as no other cases occurred in the vicinity.

CASE AT ROYAL SHOW

One case occurred at the Royal Show itself and was traced to meat pies which were found to be heavily contaminated. The whole consignment was seized as unfit for human consumption.

NORFOLK AND NORWICH HOSPITAL OUTBREAK

An outbreak of food poisoning at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital began two days after the end of the Royal Show. It proved to be an extensive epidemic amongst staff and patients which took a considerable time to get under control. It was also due to salmonella typhimurium.

It involved the public health staff in an enormous amount of work in following up discharged patients, in taking specimens from them and their household contacts. Later, the hospital was able to arrange to test all patients before discharge and to supply us with the results. Cases were thereafter followed up only if positive on discharge.

In all, 45 specimens were taken, 7 of these were positive and 38 negative. By the third week in September all positive cases were negative except for one ex-patient who was positive on discharge from hospital. It was some weeks before this case could be satisfactorily closed.

Throughout this epidemic, we were deeply indebted to the Deputy Medical Officer of Health of Norwich who had been invited to assist the hospital staff in dealing with the situation. His liaison work with the authorities receiving cases from the hospital was invaluable in enabling us to act promptly to prevent spread of

infection in the community and I am happy to say that no further cases did in fact occur in the district from this focus.

The cause of the outbreak will never be determined but I feel that it was no mere coincidence that it followed closely on the Royal Show, which was held in tropical weather, during which standards of food hygiene were often much below those essential for the safety of the consumers.

The other moral of this sorry tale is that to prevent and control such outbreaks, a specialist in preventive medicine is needed on the staff of the hospital not just by invitation after the situation has become critical, to help to clear up the mess. Such a consultant, with expert training in community medicine, is essential to all large hospital establishments and should be a statutory staff appointment with authority to inspect and advise on all aspects of transmissible disease.

ENTERIC DISEASES

There were no cases of typhoid or paratyphoid notified during the year.

G E N E R A L S I C K N E S S

The receipt of weekly returns of new sickness claims enables a watch to be kept on the general incidence of sickness in the community. A large rise in claims nearly always denotes the arrival of an epidemic, usually of some form of respiratory disease.

Every year until 1957 the graph of incidence was more or less the same shape with a greater or lesser peak in January or February, and a much smaller seasonal rise towards the end of November. In the year under review the picture was entirely

different. After a moderate peak in January, the figures declined gradually to a low figure in early September. Then within three weeks the number of claims rose ^{to} three times the highest January figure reaching this phenomenal peak in the middle of October. The figures then declined sharply by the middle of November to an average January level and then rose again at the end of December to about half the peak figure.

This sickness experience was undoubtedly due to the "Asian 'Flu" epidemic which had begun in the Far East in the early part of the year and had been anticipated to reach this country in the autumn.

Apart from sickness absence and poor school attendance, remarkably few complications were reported and the disease was more than usually mild.

T U B E R C U L O S I S

The following table gives the ages and sex incidence during the year:-

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 15	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
16 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26 - 35	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
36 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
46 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
56 - 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Over 65	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ;	5	2	-	1	1	-	-	-

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1957:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Male	63	64	23	23	86	87
Female	50	45	19	20	69	65
Totals :	113	109	42	43	155	152

There was a total of 155 cases on the Register at the end of the year compared with 152 in 1956. 7 new pulmonary cases and 1 non-pulmonary case were notified during 1957, compared with 6 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary in 1956.

The 7 new pulmonary cases were males aged 15, 21, 29, 30 and 70 and females aged 28 and 65. The non-pulmonary case was ^agirl aged 11.

Incidence

<u>Area</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Rate</u>
County of Norfolk	133	0.35	22	0.057
Forehoe & Henstead	7	0.28	1	0.04

Mortality

County of Norfolk	16	0.04	11	0.029
Forehoe & Henstead	1	0.041	-	-
England & Wales	4,250	0.095	534	0.012

Treatment

Admissions to Sanatoria and Hospitals :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Totals</u>
1952	12	10	22
1953	16	9	25
1954	11	11	22
1955	9	6	15
1956	1	5	6
1957	6	3	9

There were only 7 new cases notified during the year and 9 cases admitted to hospital which shows that there is an adequate number of beds for the treatment of tuberculosis in the district.

Prevention

This year B.C.G. Vaccination was offered to all school-leavers who had reached their 14th birthday whatever school they attended. The acceptance rate and results of Heaf-testing are shown below for those attending schools in this rural district :-

Total Number in Age Group	:	269		
Number tested	:	165	Acceptance Rate	61%
Number positive	:	36	Rate Positive	22%
Number vaccinated	:	123		

The acceptance rate was not as good as could have been wished and is lower than in previous years. It is difficult to account for this decline in popularity and it is to be hoped that this recession is only temporary.

There is very good evidence both at home and abroad that this protective vaccination does help to prevent tuberculosis and, when given to school leavers, it provides this protection at a time in their lives when they are most vulnerable to the infection and most likely to be severely affected by it.

GENERAL COMMENT

Again the picture of tuberculosis is an encouraging one. Only one death of a man of 57 and 7 new cases show continued good progress in the eradication of this once much dreaded disease.

MILK & DAIRIES REGULATIONS

This year 6 herds were found giving bulk samples positive to tuberculosis compared with 5 in 1956. The Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, found 3 cows suffering from tuberculosis and these were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. In the other 3 herds no infected animal was identified but in each case cows had been sold for slaughter since the bulk sample had been taken.

In one herd, where 2 infected cows were discovered, the owner decided to sell his whole herd and to re-stock with attested cattle.

I still feel that there is no guarantee that cows sold from these infected herds are, in fact, slaughtered and I should like to see procedure for tracing these animals tightened up. The position with regard to bovine tuberculosis will never be satisfactory until all herds consist only of attested animals.

The following table gives the figures for the last 6 years :-

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
Number of herds infected	6	5	2	3	-	3

In view of the above figures, and it cannot be assumed that all infected herds have necessarily been discovered, it is very comforting to know that compulsory pasteurisation of all milk apart from that from T.T.herds, bottled on the farm, has now been in force since March, 1955.

AN TH R A X O R D E R, 1938

No cases of Anthrax were reported during the year.

ROYAL SHOW, COSTESSEY - 2nd to 5th July

The Royal Show was held on the permanent Showground of the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association at Costessey in the first week of July.

Preliminary consultations with the Secretary and the Clerk of Works began in 1956, and continued up to the actual week of the Show. Although accustomed now to the difficulties connected with Agricultural Shows, after several years' co-operation with the Royal Norfolk Show officials, the public health staff were faced with a considerable undertaking when the Council agreed to provide a cesspool and sump-emptying service for the greatly enlarged ground.

In addition to this, it was necessary to follow up cases of food poisoning, and to make a survey of the food hygiene of catering establishments.

The services affecting the health and safety of those attending the Showground were as follows :-

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| (1) Water Supply |) Undertaken by the |
| (2) Refuse removal and general scavenging |) Norwich Corporation. |
| (3) Ambulance and First Aid |) Norfolk County Council |
| |) St. John Ambulance and |
| |) British Red Cross Society. |
| (4) Cesspool, sump and night soil emptying) | Forehoe and Henstead Rural |
| (5) Follow-up of suspected food poisoning) | District Council |
| (6) Food hygiene survey of catering with) | |
| random sampling |) |

Water Supply

Adequate and satisfactory throughout the Show.

Refuse Removal and General Scavenging Service

Efficiently carried out by Norwich Corporation staff.

Refuse tip near Showground required attention to avoid nuisance after the Show was over.

Ambulance and First Aid Service

Efficient and satisfactory. Helicopter service not needed.

Cesspool, Sump and Night Soil Emptying Service

The only service administered directly by this Rural District Council on behalf of the Royal Agricultural Society of England was the cesspool and sump emptying of the whole Showground both before, during and after the Show. 14 vehicles were in almost constant use, some from Forehoe and Henstead and other Norfolk Rural District Councils, and others hired from contractors. The service was organised by Mr. G.A.J. Browne and Mr. B.G.B. South. It was well conceived and admirably and efficiently carried out. No complaints were received about the service and nothing but praise of it has been heard from all quarters. This was a considerable undertaking for a small rural district and it is most satisfactory that the work was so well done.

Follow-up of Cases of Suspected Food Poisoning

An excellent liaison was established with the First Aid and Ambulance Service so that a case of suspected food poisoning applying for treatment was immediately reported to the Public Health Inspector on duty at our control hut with details of the last food eaten, where and when obtained. This enabled the Inspector to follow up at once at the catering establishment indicated. Apart from a few conditions where toxin is rapidly produced in food kept at a suitable

temperature, food poisoning in general takes some hours and sometimes a matter of days to develop after consuming the infected food. It was not surprising, therefore, that so few cases actually showed signs of illness on the ground, and it may, or may not, be a coincidence that a large food poisoning outbreak began locally the week after the Show ended.

One case of acute illness was treated in the Norwich Isolation Hospital and subsequent investigation led to the seizure of a large consignment of pork pies. A sample of these examined at the laboratory showed high bacterial content and after consideration it was decided that they were unfit for human consumption and they were not released for further sale.

Food Hygiene Survey of Catering

Apart from the follow-up of reported cases of sickness, a general survey was made of the methods of storage and handling of food in as many catering establishments as possible. In view of the unsatisfactory conditions found in some of these, some random samples of food were taken for laboratory investigations. At the same time advice was given to the caterers on how conditions could be improved although in most cases the defects could only be remedied by a change of lay-out, equipment and method, which was impracticable at such a late stage.

On the whole the official caterers to the Royal Agricultural Society of England had the best equipment and methods and most of them seem to have made a real effort to provide refrigeration for perishable food and efficient wrapping for snacks. The human element is always fallible, however, and one sample of meat, sealed

in a cellophane wrapping grew faecal coli on incubation at the laboratory and this matter was taken up with the caterers concerned. It shows what extreme care at all stages is essential for the safe handling of food.

The samples taken from the various caterers were as follows:-

Pork Pies	Ham, tomato and beetroot on plate
Steak and kidney)	Packet of sliced tongue (wrapped)
pies)	Pie and egg
Fruit cake	Biscuit
Jam puff	Sausage roll
Jelly	Cheese (wrapped)
Turkey	Ham sandwich (wrapped)
Salmon	Smoked salmon

Except where stated, all the above foods were unwrapped and uncovered prior to sale and the bacterial content of all but the jelly indicated that they had suffered from being exposed to contamination. Wrapped food showed a lower bacterial content on the whole but some had obviously been contaminated before being wrapped. All caterers concerned asked to be advised of the results of our investigations and this was done.

GENERAL COMMENT

The standard of food handling in this country is much too low generally and a change of attitude to it is long overdue. The conditions at the Royal Show were no worse, and unfortunately no better, than at similar functions all over the country. I had hoped that they would be a great deal better.

What is needed is a strict code of practice for food handling at these Shows and other outdoor functions. Methods, layout and equipment should be open to inspection in plan by the local Medical Officer of Health long before the Show takes place so that defects could be remedied in advance. Caterers employed

by standholders for clients and customers should be asked to conform with the same code of practice, which should be available when conditions of stand-letting are being arranged. Caterers from long distances could well have their plans passed by their local Public Health Department and be asked to furnish evidence to that effect before their catering contract was signed.

To sum up, uncovered, perishable food stored without refrigeration in hot marquees seems to me to be the best recipe for a large food poisoning outbreak.

H O U S I N G

Waiting List

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
No. of applicants at 31st December	492	422

Analysis of Waiting List

Small Unit Families	404	340
Large Unit Families	88	82

Note: Small Unit families are those suitable for one or two bedroomed dwellings and consist largely of married couples with one child or two children of the same sex. Large Unit families mainly represent those with more than two children, or two children over eight years of age of opposite sex.

Agricultural workers	108	81
Others	384	341

Local Authority houses

Position at 31st December, 1957

Pre-war	840
Post-war	911

Total 1751

Houses erected during 1957

By Council	7	64
By Private Building	156	163

Total 163 227

Ex-Government Camps

Number of families occupying these Camps :

At 31st December, 1957	51
At 31st December, 1956	91

NEW BUILDING

The waiting list for Council houses appears to have increased by 70 but as no very recent check has been made these figures may not be wholly reliable.

A total of 163 new units of accommodation was completed during the year compared with 227 in 1956. This decrease was almost entirely accounted for by the practical cessation of Council building. Indeed, only 7 dwellings were completed by the Council during the year, the amount of private building also showing a slight recession from 165 last year to 156 in 1957. This tendency became apparent for the first time in 1956, the year 1955 representing a high tide in private development. The following table shows the number of new private houses built during the past 6 years :-

<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
156	163	207	172	109	36

IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING PROPERTY

Private houses

61 applications for improvement grants were received during the year and all but 2 were granted. These grants amounted to a total of £19,509 and concerned 77 units of accommodation. This is a decrease on 1956, when a total of 73 grants were made.

Pre-war Council Houses

Electrical installations : Further work was carried out during the year in the installation of electricity in 80 more pre-war Council houses. The position at the end of the year is that just over 50% of all pre-war houses now have electricity.

Water Supply In addition, mains water supply was laid on to 8 houses at East Carleton and 10 houses at Shotesham.

The slow progress with the improvement of Council property is still to be deplored specially when set against the amount of renovation of private property which has been sanctioned and rate-aided during the year. It is surely time that all Council property was provided with modern amenities and I feel that the Council should not cease to press for this at an early date.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Condemned properties

New Demolition Orders made 1957	61
Properties still standing	165
Properties occupied	87
Properties demolished	30

Undertakings

New Undertakings not to re-let, 1957	8
Properties still standing	25
Properties occupied	13
Properties demolished	3

It will be seen that the work of slum clearance has increased during the year, 61 demolition orders being made compared with 33 in 1956 and 8 Undertakings, not to re-let, being accepted. Further details of this work are given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING SURVEY (Continuing)

	<u>Categories</u>					<u>Total</u>
	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>	
Kimberley & Wicklewood	50	71	32	1	28	182

GENERAL SURVEY OF HOUSING

The good housing of the people is fundamental to their general well-being. The life of the family presents a housing need which is roughly in three stages. First, the newly-weds

wanting, and needing, to have the privacy of their own four walls around them, within which they may build the indissoluble fabric of marriage as a sure background for a young and beloved family and at a rent which the young breadwinner can reasonably afford. Second, there is the established family with mature parents of rapidly developing children with need for air and space to carry on their natural and diverse activities. Finally and lastly, there are the aged parents with all their children married and settled in their own homes, who need to be relieved of the physical and financial demands of the larger house and require the small, easily worked bungalow in which to spend the evening of their days. This last transition is best made while the householders are still active enough in mind and body to settle easily into a new environment.

In assessing the adequacy of any Council's housing scheme, all these needs must be considered and the claims of these three groups given equal consideration according to their proportions on the housing list. If length of time on the waiting list is to be the criterion, when and how do the newly-married get homes of their own? The break-up of marriages is on the increase and is deplored on all sides and the increasing difficulty of getting a home of their own is likely to aggravate an already disquieting state of affairs.

The more fashionable larger family, reflected in the rising birth rate, must be equipped to carry out its major task of bringing up our future citizens with enough room to avoid unnecessary frustrations, ill temper and occasionally, even moral hazards.

The old folk, of whom society has suddenly become aware, increase in numbers every year and must have good surroundings, easy to run and pleasant to live in, to enable full activity of mind and body to be maintained throughout their increasing life span. If there were an adequate number of suitable small dwellings, many under-occupied larger houses would become available for the second group of large sized families.

The sudden drastic curtailment of Council building with the recession in private construction makes one wonder what deferred hopes are making how many hearts sick. If there is no prospect of building at a greater rate than in 1957, when only 7 Council dwellings were completed compared with 64 in the previous year, then those still on the waiting list should be told quite clearly what their chances of housing are likely to be so that they may at least try to make other arrangements.

The appeals to the Medical Officer of Health received almost daily for priority on various legitimate grounds, some of which seem quite urgent, give a picture of anxious people waiting impatiently for their turn to come. If they are likely to wait in vain or for long years I think that in the interests of their mental health they should be told exactly what their position is.

Curiously, the general curtailment of local authority building in the whole country as shown in the Report of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for 1957, is very small indeed, about 1.7%. The decrease in this district is in the order of 89%. The reason for this is not at all clear unless the depopulation of rural areas has already been accepted as inevitable.

F A C T O R I E S A C T S, 1937 & 1948

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written</u>	<u>Occupiers</u>
(i)	<u>Register</u>		<u>Notices</u>	<u>Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	25	5	-	-
(ii)				
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	82	31	3	-
(iii)				
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	11	-	-	-
Totals :	118	36	3	-

Outwork

<u>Nature of work</u>	<u>No. of outworkers in</u> <u>August list required</u> <u>by Section 110</u>	<u>No. of instances</u> <u>of work in un-</u> <u>wholesome premises</u>
Wearing apparel - making etc.	12	-
Brush making	1	-
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.	4	-
Totals :	17	-

W A T E R S U P P L Y

An interim scheme of water supply for the parish of Wrenningham was approved by the Minister. The water/derived from the Council's existing borehole at Church Lane, and work on main-laying commenced in September. No further schemes of water supply have been started owing to the Government's restrictions on capital development.

S E W E R A G E

COSTESSEY By the end of the year work on Costessey Sewerage, Section 2 - was substantially complete. The area covered by this scheme included part of Dereham Road, Breckland Road, Jerningham Road and Grove Avenue. Sewers are now laid in all parts of Costessey capable of being drained to the sewage works by gravity.

Work started in March on Costessey Sewerage, Section 3. This provides for the sewerage of Long Water Lane, the construction of a pumping station and rising main and substantial extensions to the sewerage disposal works. Good progress has been made on the contract.

PORINGLAND Work on Poringland Sewerage, Section 1, was completed during the year. This scheme provided sewers for the Council's housing development at Howe Lane and Shotesham Road as well as for private houses on the Brooke Road.

S O C I A L H E A L T H

A list of 13 Clubs all of which hold regular weekly meetings is given below with times and places of meeting :-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Day and time of meeting</u>
Colton	Village Hall	Thursday (alt.) 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
New Costessey	Scouts Hut	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Old Costessey	Parish Room	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Deopham	Church Room	Tuesday 2.15 - 4.30 p.m.
Easton	Village Hall	Wednesday(alt.) 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Hethersett	Methodist Chapel	Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Hingham	Lincoln Hall	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Marlingford	Village Hall	Thursday (alt.) 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Poringland	Village Hall	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Saxlingham	Village Hall	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Shotesham	Village Hall	Thursday (alt.) 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Trowse	Church Room	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Wicklewood	Village Hall	Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

One new Club was opened at Shotesham during the year bringing the total to 13 for the district. All Clubs continue to provide happiness and interest for the older folk and are so much part of the parish scheme that it is difficult to imagine what it was like without them. I still hope for development at Wreningham and Rockland St.Mary, where there must be many elderly people who would welcome the facilities such Clubs provide.

THE DISABLED

The District Committee of the Norfolk Association for the Care of the Handicapped formed in 1956, continued its good work during 1957 and greatly extended its activities. Under the able Chairmanship of Mrs. G.E. Wright many outings and parties were held for the 50 odd severely disabled people of the district. The transport was provided by volunteer drivers who gave wonderful service collecting people from remote parishes often in very unpleasant weather and returning them safely to their homes at the end of the day.

Many money raising efforts have been made during the year and the Committee is now financially self-supporting. The policy of getting many different groups of people to help with funds or entertainment spreads the knowledge of the needs of the disabled and gains for them more and more kindly friends. Each year more people from the district have a holiday at Gorleston Camp and they are assisted where necessary both financially and with transport by the District Committee. This is splendid work which can only be done by willing volunteers and which adds so much to the intangible state of happiness of those who are deprived of so much. Their mental health is greatly improved by the simple realisation that some people really care about them. The total effect is considerable without any aid from rates or public funds and the general public should be greatly indebted to those who do this work.

C O U N T Y S E R V I C E S

INFANT WELFARE SERVICES

The County Council Welfare Centres are held at the following times and places :-

<u>Centre</u>	<u>Where held</u>	<u>Day of Month</u>	
New Costessey	Methodist Hall	3rd & last Tuesday)	
Old Costessey	Parish Hall	2nd Tuesday	)Medical
Hethel	The School	2nd Thursday	)Officer
Hethersett	Methodist School Room	3rd Tuesday	)attends
Hingham	Lincoln Hall	2nd Wednesday	)regularly
Stoke Holy Cross	Village Hall	3rd Tuesday	)
Barnham Broom	Village Hall	1st Thursday	)
Cringleford	Maycrete Hall	last Tuesday	)Medical
Easton	Church Room	3rd Monday	)Officer
Morley St. Botolph	Village Hall	3rd Thursday	)attends
Mulbarton	Wingfield Hall	1st Wednesday	)occasion-
Poringland	Parish Hall	1st Tuesday	)ally
Rockland St. Mary	Margaret Mack Hall	last Monday	)
Saxlingham	Village Hall	2nd Tuesday	)
Shotesham	Trinity Hall	2nd Wednesday	)

All Centres are held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

GENERAL WELFARE SERVICES

Headquarters : Local Health Office, Area 4, Aspland Road,
Riverside Road, NORWICH.

County Welfare Officers continue to provide general services throughout the district and in addition to Headquarters, there are the following contact points where the public can obtain advice:-

Parish Welfare Officer attends

Costessey :

C/o Mrs. E. Wiseman, Wednesday -
106, Norwich Road. 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon

Hingham :

C/o Mrs. Rosbrook, Monday -
Bell Corner. 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

GENERAL SURVEY

The health of the district has been satisfactory during the year. A large epidemic of mild respiratory disease occurred rather unusually in the month of October. There were very few complications.

Preventable infant deaths were very low, deaths under 40 were mainly due to accidents and only one case of fatal tuberculosis occurred, but cancer of the lung caused a still greater toll of life in the working age group. Voluntary work amongst the elderly and the disabled has been extensive and most valuable for their social and mental health.

The Royal Show involved much planning and executive work, which was most efficiently carried out by the public health staff.

The main needs of the district are still the early modernisation of older Council property and an up-to-date and real assessment of the housing needs of the people.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I should again like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year and to acknowledge my debt to the staff for their continued efficiency and enthusiasm.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

IRENE B.M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1957.

The year saw no changes in the staffing or organisation of the department. The technical staff comprised four fully qualified public health officers and the clerical staff two clerk/shorthand typists. For the purpose of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, one full time vermin destroyer was employed and in connection with public health services a full time public health foreman was employed to supervise refuse collection, cesspool emptying and night soil collection. The department remained responsible for the maintenance and repair of all the Council's vehicles.

The public health department was responsible for administering the Public Health and Housing Acts, Shops Act, Factories Act, Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 and Petroleum Acts, and for duties in connection with infectious disease, fumigations, disinfections and disinfestations, inspection of meat and other foods, food sampling, knacker's yards, moveable dwellings, private water supplies, improvement and modernisation of houses, drainage work and a number of other items including Council controlled cemeteries.

During the year the Rent Act, 1957 and the Housing Act, 1957 came into operation, the former to amend previous Rent Restriction Acts and other enactments relating to the control of rent and the right to obtain possession of houses and the latter to consolidate enactments relating to housing generally, including unfit houses and slum clearance and abatement of overcrowding.

The detailed information which follows in this report includes two items of special note, namely; the invitation extended to me to present a paper on "Slaughterhouses" at the Rural District Councils' Association Annual Conference at Folkestone in June, and the Royal Show at Costessey in July.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

The following is a summary of the main inspections carried out during the year:-

		B/Forward	3956
Housing Acts	1287	Drainage & Sewerage	173
Public Health Acts & Nuisances	281	Refuse, Night Soil	
Infectious diseases	385	& Cesspool emptying	428
Fumigations	4	Housing Act, 1949	583
Disinfestations	9	(Improvement Grants	
Meat & Other Foods	1392	& Building Byelaws)	
Shops Act & Food Hygiene	178	Petroleum Acts	31
Dairies & Cowsheds	72	Prevention of Damage	22
Slaughterhouses (Other than	28	by Pests Act, 1949	
meat inspection)		Factories Act	36
Knacker's Yard	15	Moveable dwellings	130
Water supplies	202	Bakehouses	9
Cemeteries	39	Ice Cream sampling	6
The Royal Show	64	Miscellaneous	440
	<u>3956</u>	Total :	<u>5814</u>

WATER SUPPLIES

The Norwich Corporation Statutory Area for the purpose of mains water supply extends into the district and covers well over 50% of the whole district area. The remaining parishes outside the Norwich Statutory Area can be supplied either by the Wymondham U.D.C., or by extension from the Norwich mains. Small groups of properties are supplied, where convenient, from the District Council's estate supplies. The parish of Ketteringham derives its mains supply from a private undertaking.

The general source of water supply in the district can, therefore, be said to be derived from mains and 35 parishes out of the total of 42 have a piped water supply available. In no case is the water likely to exert plumbo-solvent action and no pollution of piped supplies occurred during the year.

Those properties which have other than a mains water supply obtain their supplies in the majority of cases from shallow wells which, upon analysis, are often found to be of poor quality.

During the year 93 samples were taken and in most cases were analysed at the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:-

	<u>Fit</u>	<u>Doubtful</u>	<u>Unfit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Combined Chemical & Bacteriological	-	-	-	-
Chemical only	-	-	-	-
Bacteriological only	38	8	47	93
	-	34	-	

In all cases where pollution was discovered action was taken either to improve the existing supply or to provide alternative supplies.

Details of new Water Schemes are given in the Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and the Engineer and Surveyor.

SEWERAGE:

The work of the department under this section is mainly concerned in dealing with nuisances which arise from foul ditches and defective sewage disposal systems.

All sewerage schemes come under the jurisdiction of the Engineer's department and details of works carried out during the year are to be found in his report.

The most serious nuisances occurred in the parishes of Barford, Barnham Broom, Costessey, Hethersett, Hingham, Poringland and Saxlingham in connection with sewer ditches and private disposal systems. It has been evident for some years that the only satisfactory answer to the problem is the provision of proper sewerage schemes in these parishes.

By the end of the year the position at Poringland had been eased by the completion of Stage 1 of the Sewerage Scheme, but at Costessey and Hethersett very little progress had been possible to deal with the 'black spots'. In a number of individual cases owners have been persuaded as a temporary measure to provide additional soak-aways, but it is becoming increasingly evident that in many cases the sub-soil has become saturated and regular emptying of cesspools at short intervals has been necessary.

Sewer ditches or ditches which have become polluted and give rise to nuisance owing to the discharge of foul waste waters into them is becoming quite a problem in a number of the parishes which now have piped water supplies. This does not necessarily mean that new connections to ditches have been made, but rather that the increased flow from properties which are already connected is more than the ditches can take without causing nuisance. The main problems still exist at Barford, Hethersett, Poringland and Saxlingham, with perhaps smaller problems at Barnham Broom, Newton Flotman and Hingham. Works of cleaning out sewer ditches were carried out during the year whenever it was considered necessary as a public health measure.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The following table gives details of work carried out during the year:-

No. of visits:

(a) Private	....	1576
(b) Council	....	81 (Engineer's Dept.)
(c) Outside district	....	31

No. of loads :

(a) Private	....	2195
(b) Council	....	250 (Engineer's Dept.)
(c) Outside district	....	52

The service continued to operate as in previous years, one vehicle being in full time use and a second vehicle available when required. Each vehicle was manned by a driver only, except in special

cases, and the charge remained as before at 15/- for the first load and 10/- for each additional load or part load, payable in advance. Disposal took place/^{mainly} on agricultural land and except for one or two isolated cases no nuisance arose.

It will be seen from the above details that the number of visits to private dwellings increased by nearly 50% when compared with the previous year but I do not anticipate that the figures will continue to rise to any great extent as there are several factors which govern the need for this service, not the least of which is weather conditions. It would appear that any relief gained by the installation of village sewerage schemes is offset, for the time being at any rate, by the increase in the number of dwellings which are being provided with modern amenities.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION:

The scheme in connection with the collection and disposal of night soil was considerably extended in the early part of the year and some 1200 properties are now served. These include the majority of properties in Old Costessey and Hethersett and groups of properties in most of the other parishes in the district. A small number of properties are still being served in the parishes of Hingham and Trowse Newton, despite the fact that sewerage schemes exist in these parishes.

In the absence of a complete District Scheme it has been difficult to be uniform in the number of properties dealt with parish by parish, but as far as possible those properties in the greatest

need have been dealt with, including special cases concerning elderly people.

One cesspool emptier with night soil attachment was used and this was manned by a driver and mate. The collections were arranged to take place between the hours of 9 p.m., and 6 a.m., with slight alteration according to the time of year. I consider the district is fortunate in being able to arrange this scheme at night, as many districts now find it impossible to obtain labour willing to do the job at night and it has to be carried out during the daylight hours. The scheme operated satisfactorily and no serious complaints arose. Disposal of night soil took place on farm land, in the main, by the composting method.

REFUSE COLLECTION:

The scheme continued during the year under the same organisation as for previous years, controlled from the office of the public health department and supervised by the public health foreman stationed at Hethel Depot.

Three rear-loading moving floor vehicles and one side-loading vehicle were used and during the year all were engaged practically full time. The vehicles were manned by 15 men, including the drivers who act as gang foremen.

Collections took place weekly in the parishes of Costessey, Cringleford, Hingham and Trowse Newton, and at approximately fortnightly intervals in the remaining parishes in the area with the exception of the very small and isolated parish of Holverston. It was hoped that it would be possible to reserve one of the vehicles

for part time relief use only, but the continued increase in the number of properties to be served demanded that all vehicles must be in almost full time use.

During the last 6 years the number of dwellings served in the district has risen from 7,000 to nearly 8,000 but the number of loads and tonnage of refuse collected has nearly doubled owing to the more frequent collections which now take place over the greater part of the area. It is estimated that over 1400 loads were collected with an approximate weight of 4,600 tons. Disposal of refuse took place at controlled tips owned by the Council at Hackford and Ketteringham and at privately owned tips at Bowthorpe and Poringland. The need for additional tipping sites is becoming acute and much time has been spent in surveys and negotiation with owners. Unfortunately, although perhaps quite naturally, most owners of pits or suitable land are reluctant to allow tipping, and also many desirable sites are found to be uneconomical.

Closely connected with a central tip is the siting of a central depot and having in mind that the premises now occupied at Hethel are of a temporary nature, great thought will be necessary in the near future to decide finally on a site which might serve both purposes. The use of privately owned tips to which all and sundry have access is never a satisfactory solution and throughout the year complaints were received of nuisance being caused by fires. This necessitated the carting of large quantities of water to put out the fires.

It was also found that unless controlled tipping was carried out efficiently there was a great risk of internal combustion.

The following is a summary of the year's work:-

No. of dwellings in the district	....	8243
No. of dwellings served	....	7861
No. of loads collected	....	1400
Approximate tonnage	....	4600

SALVAGE:

Wherever possible, without incurring additional expenditure for labour, certain waste materials were salvaged and during the year these materials realised the sum of £134: 4: 3. The Council adopted a Bonus Scheme whereby the refuse collection gangs received 25% of the proceeds of sales.

HOUSING:

The work of the department under this heading has been concerned mainly with the two aspects, - slum clearance and the improvement grant scheme.

The Council decided on a policy whereby properties already surveyed in previous years should be dealt with before any further large scale survey was carried out and this policy continued throughout the year. It was, however, found possible to survey the parishes of Kimberley and Wicklewood.

The method of dealing with properties considered so unfit as to warrant demolition continued under similar lines as in previous years, namely, after initial inspection by the department properties were visited by a Sub-Committee which then made its

recommendations to the Public Health Committee. The Housing Acts lay down the procedure in all cases where demolition or clearance is to be considered, whereby owners have every opportunity of presenting their cases to the Committee. Generally speaking, except on some of the larger estates, the condition of small dwellings has improved since the war. This is partly due to the fact that more cottages are now owner/occupied and as will be seen by the figures over the last few years of properties improved under the grant scheme, several hundreds of cottage properties have been modernised in addition to many which have been done without grant aid.

As in previous years it was found in the majority of the cases of individual unfit dwellings that very few owners were willing to make offers for carrying out extensive repairs. During the year 47 demolition orders and 14 closing orders were made and 8 undertakings not to re-let accepted. The number of properties visited by the Sub-Committee was 88.

The Council decided that the re-housing of families from unfit dwellings should be done by using casual vacancies which occur fairly regularly amongst the existing Council owned dwellings. Whilst this policy can reasonably cover quite a number of urgent cases it does not always fit in with the particular parish in which it is necessary to re-house an urgent case, and is therefore responsible for a number of urgent cases being left over for an unreasonable period. In fact, one case in particular can be instanced where a family living in a condemned and unsafe dwelling has been

waiting for alternative accommodation some two years or more. Surely such a case should come under review from time to time and should be considered for such priority as to warrant special consideration, even if this means erecting a dwelling for re-housing.

I am particularly concerned as to the future of slum clearance and re-housing. It will be remembered that a five year plan was put into operation some three years ago which laid down that Local Authorities throughout the country should at the end of five years have completed the clearance of unfit dwellings. The question arises as to what constitutes an 'unfit dwelling' and for this the statutes lay down a standard by which dwellings should be judged. If this standard is to be adhered to, some drastic alteration is necessary in the general provisions for re-housing and the Ministry must make provision to free Local Authorities from the present restrictions on building operations.

At the present time Local Authorities in many instances are adopting as low a standard as possible and are erecting as few dwellings as possible to deal with slum clearance. This may over a long period of years turn out to be the correct policy, as it is evident that in some parishes post-war Council houses are becoming difficult to let. Unless they are completely re-conditioned, I am certain that it is not the correct policy to prolong the life of unfit houses and force families, especially those with children, to many more years of unhealthy conditions.

As already mentioned only a small addition was made to the general housing survey of the district and the position at the end of the year was as follows:-

Dwellings surveyed to 31/12/57
(excluding Council owned dwellings)

Category	1	:	Dwellings fit	...	551
Category	2	:	Dwellings with minor defects only	...	281
Category	3	:	Dwellings in need of substantial repair		249
Category	4	:	Dwellings in need of alteration and/or improvements	...	93
Category	5	:	Dwellings for demolition	...	118
Total					1292

In addition to the work already mentioned a number of properties were dealt with in connection with repairs and the following notices were served:-

Preliminary Notices:

(a) Housing	...	24
(b) Public Health	...	7
(c) Water	...	14

Statutory Notices:

(a) Housing	...	2
(b) Public Health	...	5
(c) Water	...	4

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

The scheme whereby owners of dwellings can be given

financial assistance by way of grants for improvements continued on similar lines to previous years and in all approved cases 50% of the cost of such improvements considered to come within the meaning of the Act was granted. The number of applications received showed a decrease of 17, but the comparison in the number of owner/occupied dwellings and rented dwellings show for the first time a majority of rented units of accommodation. Since the Act came into force nearly 300 units of accommodation have been brought up to modern standards and it is very pleasing to be able to record that the Council have always looked upon this scheme as helping to save properties from demolition and providing modernised units of accommodation at a much lower cost to the rate-payer than would be the case if replaced with new buildings. It is also a step in the general improvement of housing standards of the district.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS:

The position in relation to moveable dwellings remained static during the year and except for the one 'black spot' in the Gurney Road area at Costessey, it can be said that no nuisance or serious effect on the amenities of the district was caused. The difficulties arising in dealing with such problems as existing at Costessey are well known, and in view of the fact that during the year the question of a Council controlled site was abandoned, it would appear that it would be a slow process to satisfactorily clear up the area concerned.

Licences issued during the year, except in three cases, were for the stationing of single modern type caravans, in a number of cases on sites where the occupiers hope eventually to erect new dwellings.

During the year 16 applications were received, 14 licences were granted and 2 applications were refused. In the 3 cases where sites were licensed for groups of caravans, these appear to be filling a gap in the need for immediate small unit accommodation.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

This work continued to be carried out by one full-time vermin destroyer and whilst he was able to deal with complaints and to carry out surveys of private properties in the district, it was not possible to undertake work in connection with agricultural properties. It is anticipated that there will shortly be a re-organisation of the work falling within the scope of the Act and that Local Authorities may eventually have to undertake all duties involved. This would, undoubtedly, mean the engagement of additional labour.

During the year there have been few serious complaints of large scale infestation, but where it was deemed necessary to undertake special treatment the Council's operator was able to deal with them satisfactorily. The work carried out during the year can be summarised as follows in accordance with details submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:-

(1)	Number of properties inspected:		
	(a) as a result of notification	...	276
	(b) survey under the Act	...	3,157
(2)	Number of inspections and re-inspections		6,235
(3)	Number of properties found to be infested:		
	(a) major infestation	...	102
	(b) minor infestation	...	861
(4)	Number of properties treated	...	963
(5)	Number of treatments carried out	...	1,375

SLAUGHTERHOUSES:

There are 6 licensed slaughterhouses in the district situate in the following parishes:-

Costessey (1), Hingham (1), Swardeston (2), Shotesham (1), and Hethersett (1). In 5 of these premises the District Council were responsible for the inspection of meat. In the other case, namely, the Norwich Co-operative Society's Abattoir at Swardeston, meat inspection was undertaken by the Norwich Corporation as in previous years.

No major alterations or improvements were carried out to the premises during the year but they were all kept in a satisfactory condition except in the case of the slaughterhouse at Old Costessey where nuisance in connection with drainage continued to give rise to concern to nearby residents. Improvements were carried out by the provision of additional hanging and cold storage space to cope with increased killing. The arrangements for disposal of drainage from these premises can never be satisfactory in such a confined space and the best that can be hoped for is regular emptying of the cesspools until connection to the proposed new section of the parish sewerage scheme is possible.

I have again to report an increase in the number of animals slaughtered during the year, but I am pleased to be able to record that all animals were inspected before sale for human consumption. This was made possible by the co-operation of the Council in agreeing to continue payment for overtime. The continued absence

of a workable control over the hours of slaughter meant that the inspectorial staff had to be on duty on most evenings of the week and also part-time on Sundays. Details of animals killed and inspected and the amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption, together with the percentage in respect of certain diseases, are given in the following tables in accordance with the Ministry's requirements:-

SUMMARY OF ANIMALS KILLED AND INSPECTED:

<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Steers</u>	<u>Heifers</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sows & Boars</u>	<u>Total</u>
91	672	1090	381	44	1,964	14,487	498	19,227
<u>All diseases</u>				<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
<u>Ex. Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>				<u>Ex. Cows</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned				1	1	1	3	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned				728	321	1	312	2268
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci				46.6%	47.8%	2.3%	5.7%	15.1%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>								
Whole carcasses				4	-	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned				117	83	-	-	645
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis				7.5%	12.4%	-	-	4.3%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>								
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned				59	14	-	17	-
Carcasses treated by refrigeration				59	14	-	-	-
Generalised and condemned				-	-	-	-	-

CONDEMNED MEAT:

The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 21 tons, out of an approximate total weight of meat of 1489 tons, giving the percentage weight of meat condemned as 1.4%. The following are details of whole carcasses condemned:-

		<u>WEIGHT</u>			
		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs
<u>Beef</u>					
2 Steers	(Tuberculosis)	10		2	22
2 Heifers	(Tuberculosis)	9		3	0
1 Steer	(Septic Peritonitis)	3		3	27
1 Cow	(Malignant Tumours)	6		2	27
<u>Pork</u>					
15 Pigs	1 (Emaciated)			1	2
	1 (Septic Pleurisy)			1	0
	2 (Fevered)	1		1	10
	1 (Abdominal Distention)			3	26
	2 (Moribund)	1		3	19
	1 (Acute Pleurisy & Pneumonia)			3	6
	3 (Acute Swine Erysipelas)	2		2	0
	1 (Oedematous)			1	0
	1 (Jaundice)	1		0	8
	2 (Tuberculosis)	2		0	4
7 Sows	1 (Pyæmia)	3		2	8
	1 (Acute Swine Erysipelas)	3		0	14
	2 (Septic Peritonitis)	5		3	16
	1 (Moribund)	2		1	23
	1 (Tuberculosis)	1		3	24
	1 (Oedematous)	1		2	2
<u>Veal</u>					
1 Calf	(Umbilical Pyæmia)			1	17
<u>Mutton</u>					
3 Sheep	2 (Multiple Abscesses)	1		0	18
	1 (Moribund)			1	24
Total weight condemned :		3	3	0	17

In addition to the before mentioned details, various parts of carcasses and offals were condemned amounting to 17 tons. 18 cwt. 2 qrs. 15 lbs., which added to whole carcasses condemned gave a total of 21 tons. 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 2 lbs.

Disposal of condemned meat took place at the Concentrator Plant of the Norwich Corporation at Harford, with the exception of a very small quantity which was processed at the premises where killed. In addition to the amount of meat condemned 73 carcasses were found to be affected with *Cysticercus bovis*. These were detained in cold store for the required period before release for human consumption.

It will be seen from comparison with previous reports that the number of carcasses affected with *Cysticercus bovis* has trebled in the last twelve months and the large amount of meat which was placed in cold store and the consequent drop in value involved, caused much concern to the trade. Various organisations are studying the position and the Ministry have been asked to look into the problem from the national point of view. It is hoped that soon some lead will be given as to future action, but it would appear however, from statements made that an incidence of up to 5% is not considered alarming.

KNACKER'S YARD:

There is only one licensed knacker's yard in the district. This is situate at Shotesham and during the year the necessary improvements to provide separate stunning pen for horses was completed. No complaints were received as to nuisance from these premises.

FOOD PREMISES:

Much progress was made during the year in connection with the inspection and subsequent improvement in the general standard of food premises and food hygiene in the district.

In practically every instance the inspectors were well received and given satisfactory co-operation by shopkeepers and it was not found necessary to take legal action in any instance.

Every endeavour has been made to keep a uniform standard of requirements, having regard to the lack of mains water and sewerage in a number of the villages, but I can say that the general standard of hygiene in food premises in the area has greatly improved as a result of the year's work. There is still a great deal to be done but it is hoped that with the co-operation of the trade it will not be long before all premises can be described as satisfactory.

The following figures are given in accordance with the Ministry's requirements in Annual Reports:-

(1)	Number of food premises in the area	...	132
(2)	(a) Number of and type of food premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955	...	
	(i) Sausage manufacture	...	7
	(ii) Meat products	...	1
	(iii) Fish premises	...	3
	(iv) Ice cream sale	...	48
	(b) Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Daixies Regulations, 1949-54	...	18
(3)	Inspections of registered premises (These were mainly confined to premises registered for the sale of ice cream)	...	56

- (4) Educational activity ... Nil.
- (5) Disposal of condemned food.
(All condemned food is rendered down in high pressure units, the majority at the Kitchen Waste and Condemned Meat Plant of the Norwich Corporation).
- (6) Consignments of food examined and ... 791½ lbs.
condemned
- (7) Ice cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952 ... Nil
- (8) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 - 1956
98 initial visits were made during the year as follows:-

Grocers	:	69
Bakers	:	8
Fish shops	:	7
Cafes	:	5
Confectioners	:	5
Butchers	:	3
Greengrocers	:	1

98

(In 16 cases the premises were found to be in all respects satisfactory. In all other cases the improvements found necessary were agreed with the shopkeepers and in a number of cases work was in progress).

The following licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949:-

Dealer's licence for "Pasteurised"	...	21
Dealer's Supplementary licence for "Pasteurised"	...	8
Dealer's licence for "Tuberculin Tested"	..	20
Dealer's Supplementary licence for "Tuberculin Tested"	...	9

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

The Local Authority is responsible for administering certain sections of the Factories Acts. 36 inspections were made as a result of which it was found necessary to serve 3 notices requiring the provision of proper sanitary accommodation.

PETROLEUM ACTS - LICENSED PREMISES

At the end of the year there were 113 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum. Of this number 31 were in respect of garages and filling stations, the remainder being for private and agricultural premises where petrol was not offered for sale. There are no special bye-laws in the district but as far as possible the standard of construction of installations was kept uniform with that of the larger authorities.

CEMETERIES:

The District Council continued to be responsible for the management of cemeteries at Hingham and Trowse Newton. The public health department carried out all duties in connection with outside management and maintenance.

THE ROYAL SHOW, COSTESSEY:

This Annual Report would not be complete without mention of this event which took place on the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association site and adjacent land at Costessey in June.

The showground covered some 120 acres and was an ideal one being reasonably level and having a sub-soil of gravel which

greatly assisted in the disposal of storm water. Fortunately, apart from a torrential downpour two days prior to the Show, the weather was fine and sunny.

The public health department was responsible for the following services:-

- (a) Emptying of sumps and pail closets and cleansing of public conveniences.
- (b) Food hygiene etc.

The absence of any sewerage system necessitated the removal of all soil and waste water from sumps on the showground to disposal points elsewhere and without nuisance. During the four days of the Show some 450,000 gallons of liquid were removed from the showground and disposed of. This required an organisation as simple and efficient as possible and great credit was due not only to the public health staff but to the gangs of workmen who manned the 14 cesspool emptiers and carried out other cleansing duties on the showground.

Vehicles were kept in almost constant use and during the peak periods had to deal with emergencies which arose owing to blocked drains and sumps being too small in a number of cases. In addition to the sumps at kitchens, cafes and private stands etc., drainage from some 300 W.C's, 22 urinals and 120 washbasins was dealt with. Elsan closets on the showground and at caravan parks nearby received attention and the cleansing of public conveniences was also carried out. It can be seen from these very brief figures that the task was of some magnitude.

The inspection of catering establishments, kitchens etc., was included in the duties of the department and as many as possible were visited and advice given on food hygiene in general. Samples of food were taken in a number of instances and submitted for bacteriological examination. The alarming results of the analyses have already been well publicised and no further comment from me is necessary, except to say that I am certain the investigations and work carried out at this type of large public gathering is bearing fruit much farther afield.

The work described above could not be done without considerable expense but it is pleasing to record that the final cost of £920 was just below the original estimate.

C O M M E N T

Although the year saw nothing spectacular in achievement, 1957 should go down in the history of Forehoe and Henstead as being of special note, in that the district acted as host for the Royal Agricultural Society's Show and accepted responsibilities of great public health importance. The fact that these duties were carried through without hitch, was due to the co-operative effort of the whole public health department and I would like to record my appreciation of the staff's assistance.

The problem of meat inspection remained a serious burden to the district and although the Government's further legislation on slaughterhouses is expected to be made in the near future, it is not anticipated that it will result in easing the position in many areas.

Many suggestions have been made including (a) a greater control on hours of slaughter, (b) no Sunday killing, (c) reduction in the number of slaughterhouses, and so on. Surely if the Government made legislation making it compulsory for local authorities to carry out 100% meat inspection and gave adequate financial grants, the local authorities themselves would enforce such regulations and conditions of slaughter as would make it practicable for them to fulfil their duties satisfactorily. I believe that within the existing framework a workable scheme for 100% meat inspection is possible in all areas.

No Annual Report would be complete without mention of Housing and Slum Clearance, and in commenting on these subjects I would say that 1957 saw the district make real progress with slum clearance. It is a task which involves considerable preliminary work and is necessarily a lengthy process especially in an area containing such mixed types of villages. In addition to the truly rural hamlet and the larger village or original small town, with buildings of both historical and architectural merit, one finds the village which has grown between the wars with badly planned development and dwellings of every conceivable type. There is also the problem of the large estate which has become a burden to its owner.

The inspections carried out by the Sub-Committee during the year revealed to the members many glaring examples of neglect and inability on the part of owners to repair their property, and it is to be regretted that where improvement schemes are not possible, the economic position and present day policy will not allow for rebuilding small groups of traditional style dwellings to replace those demolished.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Rural District Councils' Association invited me to present a paper to their Annual Conference in June and I consider this not only an honour to myself but also to the Forehoe and Henstead Rural District Council. The subject "Slaughterhouses - With Special Reference to Rural Areas" was well received and, as was to be expected, evoked considerable discussion. Whilst immediate results were not noticeable it is to be hoped that the points raised may be of some assistance towards a satisfactory solution to the problem.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and sympathetic consideration of matters brought before them, and to the members of the public health department, who throughout the year, co-operated so well and carried out the sometimes difficult and delicate duties so conscientiously.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. J. BROWNE, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Bea House,
NORWICH

REPORT OF ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957

W A T E R S U P P L Y

WRENINGHAM:

An interim scheme of water supply for the parish of Wreningham which was prepared after the discovery of widespread pollution of private shallow wells received the approval of the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The scheme will fit in with the future comprehensive District Water Supply Scheme, but for the time being water for Wreningham will be supplied from the Council's existing borehole at Church Lane. Mainlaying work was started in September.

GENERAL:

Owing to the Government's restriction on capital development, no further progress was made on other outstanding water supply schemes.

Mains water supply is now available in all the 26 parishes in the district which lie within the Statutory Supply Area of the Norwich Corporation. Of the remaining 16 parishes, for which the Council are the Statutory Water Undertakers, piped water supply is available in 10. At Newton Flotman and Kimberley the water is derived from the Council's own small headworks and supplies of water for the other parishes are purchased in bulk from the Norwich Corporation and the Wymondham Urban District Council.

Of the post-war Council housing sites at Barnham Broom, Braconash, Deopham, Flordon, Runhall and Wreningham where there are no mains, indoor piped water supplies from boreholes and pumpsets are available in a total of 100 houses.

The total estimated population within the Council's water supply area is 7,500 and approximately 3,600 have a piped water supply.

SEWERAGE

COSTESSEY:

By the end of the year work on Costessey Sewerage Scheme, Section 2, was substantially completed. All parts of Costessey capable of being drained to the sewage disposal works by gravity are now sewered, 520 houses and 2 schools are connected to the sewers.

Work started in March on Phase 1 of Section 3 of the Costessey Sewerage Scheme, and good progress has been made on the contract. This phase provides for sewerage Longwater Lane and part of The Street, the construction of a pumping station in The Street to which the sewage will gravitate, the construction of a 7" rising main through which the sewage will be pumped from The Street to the head of the existing gravity sewer at Dereham Road, and substantial extensions to the sewage disposal works at Bowthorpe.

PORINGLAND:

Poringland sewerage, Section 1, was completed during the year. This scheme comprised the construction of the first stage of the Poringland Sewage Disposal Works, the provision of the southern

part of the main outfall sewer to serve the Council's housing development at Howe Lane and Shotesham Road. Drainage from these has been diverted from the old cesspools to the new sewer. A total of 75 houses are at present connected to the Poringland sewer.

GENERAL:

In addition to the foregoing, public sewerage systems are maintained at Trowse, where the sewage gravitates to a pumping station near the River Yare and is pumped into the sewer of the Norwich Corporation. and at Hingham where the sewage is dealt with at the Deopham Road Sewage Disposal Works. Approximately 150 houses are connected to the Trowse sewers and approximately 340 houses to those at Hingham.

Sewers and sewage disposal works are also maintained to serve the following Council housing sites:-

	<u>No. of houses served</u>
Arminghall	12
Barnham Broom	18
Bawburgh	28 Council, 1 school and 1 school house
Colton	6
Easton	28
Flordon	20
Great Melton	8
Hethersett	32 Council, 5 Fire service houses & Fire service headquarters.
Hackford	4
Little Melton	14
Marlingford	4
Morley	10
Mulbarton	46
Newton Flotman	40 Council and 4 private
Poringland	30
Saxlingham Nethergate	6
Shotesham	12
Stoke Holy Cross	40
Wicklewood (Swedish housing site)	10
Wicklewood (Low St. bungalow)	4

NEW BUILDING:

During the year 531 plans were deposited for Planning permission or Building Bye-law approval. The pace of private building has been maintained at a similar rate to that of the last few years, though slightly fewer new houses were built. A total of 156 private dwellings was completed during 1957 and at the end of the year 89 were under construction.

Supervision of the work and administration of the Building Bye-laws proceeded smoothly. It has not been necessary to take any formal action to deal with bye-law infringement.

The Council's officers generally receive excellent co-operation from the builders in the district and any difficulties which arise are satisfactorily dealt with informally.

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